United Nations S/AC.44/2013/21

Security Council

Distr.: General
14 November 2013

Original: English

Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004)

Note verbale dated 29 May 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

The Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations has the honour to refer to your note dated 27 February 2013 and to attach herewith updated information submitted by the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic in accordance with paragraph 7 of Security Council resolution 1977 (2011) (see annex).

13-58023 (E) 261113 171213
* 1358023 *

Please recycle

Annex to the note verbale dated 29 May 2013 from the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Chair of the Committee

[Original: Arabic]

On 14 October 2004, the Syrian Arab Republic submitted its first national report to the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). The report was issued on 24 November 2004 as document S/AC.44/2004/(02)/70. In the light of the requirements and comments of the Committee, it was then supplemented by letters S/AC.44/2004/(02)/70/Add.1 and Add.2, both issued on 7 October 2005, and S/AC.44/2004/(02)/70/Add.3, which was issued on 10 November 2005.

The Syrian Arab Republic reiterates its commitment to the applicable instruments, international decisions, legislation and procedures in respect of information exchange and international, national, regional and subregional coordination to confront the threat posed by terrorists' acquisition of weapons of mass destruction.

Before the adoption of resolution 1540 (2004), the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic had taken a series of measures to regulate the peaceful use of chemical and biological materials and prevent their misuse. The competent Syrian authorities have put in p'ace national legislation on the peaceful handling of chemical substances, establishing a national centre in Damascus in 1994.

By Law No. 51 (2001) on weapons, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic imposed firm penalties for handling any type of weapon unlawfully and without a prior formal permit issued by the competent authorities. Permits exist for all forms of handling, including import, export, trafficking, production, distribution, transfer, transit, repair, carrying and acquisition. The penalties range from fines to prison terms, the amount or duration being determined in accordance with national legislation.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic remains committed to all of its international obligations regarding the scope of resolution 1540 (2004), and is developing and strengthening the relevant national monitoring and regulatory programmes. Syria had agreed with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to apply the Code of Conduct on the Import and Export of Radioactive Sources.

Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) was adopted in order to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. By resolution 1977 (2011), the Council expressed its grave concern at the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery. That resolution also noted that international cooperation between States, in accordance with international law, was required to counter illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has therefore sent a number of official letters to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the President of the Security Council for circulation as documents of the General Assembly and the Council. For example, its letter of 8 December 2013, issued as document A/67/628-

S/2012/917, highlighted reports in the Turkish newspaper *Yurt* that Al-Qa'ida members were producing chemical weapons in a laboratory near the Turkish city of Gaziantep and were threatening to use them against Syrian civilians. *Yurt* also drew attention to videos posted on the Internet in which terrorists made poison gas from chemical materials obtained by Al-Qaida from Turkish companies and tested them on living creatures.

In those letters, the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic warned that certain States were supporting terrorism by facilitating the armed terrorist groups' acquisition of chemical materials, and that those groups could resort to using such weapons against the Syrian people.

The Syrian Arab Republic calls on the Security Council to take appropriate action to prevail on those States to comply with their obligations under Security Council resolutions 1540 (2004) and 1977 (2011), thereby contributing effectively to international efforts to preserve international peace and security. The Security Council has a duty to work to coordinate international efforts in order to prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction and their means of production and delivery, and to hold States accountable for violating their international obligations in that regard.